

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No.	:	09/297,181	Confirmation No. 9384
Applicant	:	Laurent BRACCO, et al.	
Filed	:	April 26, 1999	
TC/A.U.	:	1636	
Examiner	:	Kaushal	
Docket No.	:	ST96030-US (80375.0034)	
Customer No.	:	29693	

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**REPLY AND AMENDMENT**

In response to the Office Action dated March 12, 2003, applicants respectfully request reconsideration. In light of the remarks below, applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Applicants also submit an Extension of Time request, corrected Formal Drawings, and an executed Declaration.

In addition, applicants request entry of the following amendments.